

In SUPPORT of S.B. 847

Audrey Sanford is a 49-year-old mother and wife. Audrey Sanford first injured her neck on June 21, 1995 and then again on April 16, 2003, both requiring surgery. Both injuries occurred while she was working as a swim instructor for the YWCA of New Britain. Following the first injury she was assigned a 15% permanent partial impairment of her cervical spine and a 10% impairment following the second injury.

The second injury required two surgeries. Both were cervical fusions. There were some complications following the second procedure.

The restrictions and limitations of the second injury preclude Ms. Sanford from returning to her previous employment as a swim instructor. The physicians that have examined Ms. Sanford say that she can work in a sedentary job on a part-time basis and perhaps a full time basis.

She has been unable to find employment and is contemplating another surgical procedure but currently that procedure is being contested.

Under Connecticut law Ms. Sanford was entitled to 11.7 weeks of benefits for the 10% impairment and a maximum of another 11.7 weeks of 308a benefits at the discretion of a Commissioner. At her base compensation rate of \$301.62, based on her earnings of \$10.67/hour, the 10% was worth \$3,528.95 and the maximum 308a benefit was \$3,528.95. She can no longer claim lost wage benefits unless she is unable to work at any job including a greeter at WalMart, a ticket taker at a movie theater or a parking lot attendant.

Even though Ms. Sanford sustained a serious injury in 1995 requiring surgery she returned to work. However, following her 2003 injury she was left with restrictions and limitations that leave her on the fringes of employability. She does have a G.E.D. but very little else in terms of education. Under Connecticut law, she is entitled to \$3,528.95 for a lifetime of reduced wage.

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